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4. An edition of Sedaine's "Le Philosophe sans le Savoir," by Victor Oger, Lecturer in University College and Victoria University, is interesting as being the first edition, for English readers, that gives the text of Sedaine's famous plays "as he wrote it and as it is now acted," and also because it gives, as parallel readings, the changes enforced by the "Censure," before it was allowed to be acted in 1765. In the Introduction we have an account of this Censure, and of the subsequent history of the play until it was first acted "integrally" in 1875—after more than a hundred years of repression. To this is added a brief sketch of Sedaine's literary career, and of his contemporary and subsequent reputation, besides a good summary of the play—the introductory matter being, on the whole, a model of what is good for a short edition. But here our commendation must end. To 58 pages, large type, of text, there are exactly 58 pages, small type, of Notes! The editor himself says he has "aimed at evolving from the text all the information in grammar, syntax, idiom, words, phrases, etc., which it suggested." As the result, there is hardly a line that is free from this process of "evolution," and the changes are rung, with almost endless detail and repetition, upon the most elementary points of grammar and vocabulary. The best, then, that can be said for such notes is, they are harmless, for nobody will read them. It is due to the editor to add that he states, by way of explanation of this "excess," that his book is intended—in view of certain examinations—"to be read by school boys and girls knowing hardly anything at all of French . . . , as well as by more advanced students (the Senior Candidates) and by independent readers." It was from the vain effort to produce a book suited at once to all these classes of readers, that the notes have grown into this cumbersome and heterogeneous mass; yet it would be hard to say to which class such an edition is the least adapted.

#### PERSONAL.

Mr. Greenough White, Professor of Belles-Lettres in the University of the South, at Sewanee (Tenn.), has resigned his position on account of failing health.

Dr. B. F. O'CONNOR (Columbia College, N. Y.) delivered two lectures last month on the "Cycle of Charlemagne," in the Law Building, at Columbia College. PROF. ALCÉE FORTIER (Tulane Univ., New Orleans) has just completed a very successful course of lectures on "Modern French Literature." The authors especially treated were: TH. GAUTIER, MÉRIMÉE and COPPÉE.

MR. C. H. OHLY, an American student who has for many years been pursuing his studies in philology at the Universities of Germany, is about to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Freiburg,

having already gained acceptance for his dissertation: "Die wortstellung bei Otfried; ein beitrage zur deutschen wortstellungslehre." MR. OHLY has so long, under the guidance of the best European teachers, been a zealous student of Germanic philology, that we take pleasure in announcing his intention to return to America to join in our efforts here to establish and maintain the interests of sound and progressive scholarship in 'Modern Language' studies. It is to be hoped that MR. OHLY may soon find a fitting field for work in one of our best colleges.

#### OBITUARY.

DÉSIRÉ NISARD (JEAN-MARIE-NAPOLÉON) member of the French Academy, former director of the École Normale and senator of France under the Empire, who died at San Remo on the 25th of March, had long passed away from active participation in literary affairs. He was born at Châtillon-sur-Seine the 20th of March 1806, studied at Ste-Barbe, commenced his career in the *Journal des Débats* in 1826, but under the July monarchy, went over to the *National* of Armand Carrel. He early made himself known by opposing the Romantic school, publishing in 1834 *Les Poètes latins de la Décadence*, in which he drew a comparison between Lucan and Victor Hugo. Instructor at the École Normale under Guizot and, at the same time, attached to the ministry of Public Instruction, first as chief secretary, later as head of the division of sciences and letters, he entered the field of politics and was deputy of the Côte-d'Or 1842-8. In 1843 he was made professor of Latin Eloquence at the Collège de France, in 1850 elected to the Academy over Alfred de Musset and gave his adhesion to the reign of Napoleon III, who rapidly advanced him. As inspector general of the higher education he took part in the reorganisation of the École Normale, was appointed to succeed Villemain in the chair of French Eloquence at the Sorbonne, which occasioned a political demonstration at his lectures and increased his reputation with the Empire. Commander of the Legion of Honor in 1856, director of the École Normale from 1857, senator of France from 1868, the arrival of the Republic drove him into retirement, and of old age into literary inactivity. His most important works, besides that mentioned above, are: *Précis de la littérature française* (1840); *Histoire de la littérature française* (1849, in two volumes, 1861 in four); collections of separate articles as *Mélanges* (1838), *Études sur la Renaissance* (1855), *Études de critique littéraire* (1858) *Nouvelles Études d'histoire et de littérature* (1864). He also directed the publication of the *Collection des classiques latins* (1839 on, in 27 volumes).